

Anti-Rushdie rally turns violent

LONDON (UPI) — Thousands of Muslims from around Britain gathered in a large demonstration Saturday demanding the death of author Salman Rushdie after a speech he gave last week. Police reported 35 arrests and one person injured in a confrontation in front of the houses of parliament. An estimated 20,000 Muslims, offended by Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses," began their march peacefully, halting traffic in central London but causing no serious trouble. They set out from Hyde Park waving banners and shouting slogans, then made their way to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's office at 10 Downing St. to hand in a petition demanding a change in Britain's blasphemy laws so they can challenge the novel in court. After they reached parliament square, in front of Big Ben, the protest broke out and began to spread. Police surrounded the combatants — members of Iranian and Iraqi factions according to the news agency UPI — and reinforcements poured into the area in police vans, making arrests. Police formed a solid line and swept spectators out of the park, herding them onto crowded Westminster Bridge, then faced them with tear gas and officers with riot shields across the embankment.

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Pakistani premier in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto arrived Saturday and immediately visited Muslim holy shrines in Baghdad before meeting senior Iraqi officials. Bhutto, who flew from Istanbul after a three-day visit to Turkey, was accompanied by a high-ranking delegation. They were given a red carpet welcome and greeted by Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council and the most senior figure after President Saddam Hussein. Bhutto was scheduled to meet the president and First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan later for talks expected to centre on bilateral relations, Afghanistan and the stalled peace talks between Iraq and Iran. Diplomatic sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Pakistani leader was expected to seek Iraq's help in breaking the deadlock over plans to set up a broad-based Afghan government. In Kabul following the Soviet military withdrawal in February, Iraq last month received the foreign spokesman of the Afghan rebel leader Gulbadin Hekmatyar. But the Baghdad government was not far from recognizing the government prodded by the Mujahideen rebel factions. The rebels are still battling the Kabul government (see page 2).



His Majesty King Hussein is received upon his return home early Saturday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (Petra photo)

King returns, describes summit as high success

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein returned home early Saturday after attending the extraordinary Arab summit in Casablanca, Morocco, which concluded Friday.

The King and the delegation accompanying him were received upon return by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, members of the royal family and senior officials and high-ranking army officers as well as the Moroccan charge d'affaires in

Jordan.

The Jordanian delegation that the King led to the summit included Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Royal Court Chief Thounaq Hindawi, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, the King's Private Advisor Amer Khammash and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem.

In a press statement before departure from Casablanca Friday, the King expressed appreciation:

of King Hassan II of Morocco, he said, exerted strenuous efforts at the summit to maintain solidarity among Arab leaders in the face of common challenges.

King Hussein described the summit as extremely successful, thanks to King Hassan and the participating Arab heads of states. He said the resolutions were positive, encouraging, and extremely frank:

Mentally disturbed army conscript believed killed by Israeli soldiers

AMMAN (J.T.) — A mentally disturbed army conscript failed to show up for duty Saturday and apparently crossed the River Jordan into the Israeli-occupied West Bank during the early morning hours, an official spokesman said Saturday.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted the spokesman as saying that while a search operation for the conscript was underway, firing shots were heard in the "Zouk Abdulla" area, northwest of the town of Wakkas.

"It is thought that Issa Mahmoud Ahmad, who is suffering

from psychological disturbances, has crossed the River Jordan into the West Bank," the spokesman said. "The mentioned conscript is still missing from his place of work," the spokesman added.

The spokesman said that the conscript was carrying his personal weapon.

The Associated Press quoted an Israeli army spokesman as saying Israeli troops shot and killed an unidentified man after he opened fire on an Israeli patrol near the River Jordan, slightly wounding two soldiers.

The Israeli spokesman said an

Israeli army patrol along the border fence "encountered light weapons fire from east of the fence" and returned fire.

The spokesman said that in

searches conducted in the area after the firefight, soldiers found the body of a man, dressed in a military-type uniform and armed with a U.S.-made M-16 assault rifle.

Israel Radio gave a different version of the clash, saying that an army scout was the first to open fire when he heard a noise on the other side of the demarcation fence. It said the scout himself was wounded in the firefight.

Lebanon has now been totally terminated as a result of a decision by Arab leaders to set up the higher tripartite panel of three Arab heads of state," said Sheikh Sabah.

Sheikh Sabah headed an Arab League committee on Lebanon which wanted the observers to police a ceasefire that has substantially checked artillery battles across Beirut's green line since May 11.

In remarks published Saturday by the newspaper Al Rai Al Aam, he said the proposal for an observer force drawn from several Arab countries and headed by a Kuwaiti officer had been superseded by the formation of a new heads-of-state committee to try to resolve Lebanon's civil war.

The older committee of six foreign ministers, which was formed in January and held extensive consultations with Lebanese political and religious leaders, was also disbanded, he said.

The new committee consists of Morocco's King Hassan, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria.

"The assignment of the Arab League's six-man committee on

alongside the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council, established in 1981, were seen as efforts to boost regional cooperation.

The ACC will hold its first summit meeting in Egypt from June 15 to 17, newspapers in Cairo quoted Mubarak as saying. Earlier reports said the summit would run from June 12 to 14.

Differences remain

Mubarak also said Saturday Egypt still had differences with Syria and Libya despite reconciliation talks at the Casablanca Arab summit.

Mubarak received a lavish airport welcome of prancing horses and whirling dancers. Thousands of flag-waving Egyptians cheered as he was driven through the streets of Cairo in an open car.

Mubarak said he told Syrian President Hafez Al Assad at the

NATO allies nervous over American plans

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — Nervousness emerged Saturday among North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies about a report that President George Bush may announce cuts in U.S. troops in Europe at next week's Brussels summit.

The Washington Times report that he would announce a cut in U.S. troops in Europe of up to 10 per cent or 34,000 soldiers fuelled apprehension in the alliance, already deeply split over the future of short-range nuclear weapons (SNF).

Bush, due in Brussels Sunday evening, declined comment on the report when asked about it during his visit to Rome.

But a NATO diplomat said: "We are braced for something. The report has not been denied and there is some nervousness about what the president might have in mind."

There was speculation that Bush might be planning a dramatic public gesture to outshine Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev who has consistently grabbed the world spotlight by bold unilateral arms offers.

Officials said, however, there was risk that such a move might be seen as a punitive measure against West Germany, home to most of the U.S. forces in Europe, because of its quarrel with Washington over SNF.

They said any weakening of the U.S. link to the defence of Western Europe, of which its troops are the most potent symbol, could deal a psychological blow to an alliance already buffeted by the storm over SNF.

Officials said any announcement of unilateral cuts would represent a swerve in U.S. and

NATO policy which has been

evening.

Among the last to arrive, and still reportedly thrashing out the contentious SNF issue among themselves, were the West Germans, Chancellor Helmut Kohl and his more liberal-leaning foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

West German officials have disclosed privately that the three-party governing coalition headed by Kohl has failed even within its own ranks to forge a united position on when and whether the superpowers should be pressed into SNF negotiations.

Bush meets Italian leaders

In Rome, Bush met Italian leaders Saturday on the first full day of a European trip during which he intends to assert his role as Western leader with proposals aimed at easing East-West tensions.

Administration officials travelling with Bush are not revealing details of the proposals on the grounds that they must first be discussed with other members of the Western alliance at the NATO summit.

Bush declined to answer Saturday when asked about reports that he was considering lifting economic sanctions on the Soviet Union imposed after its 1979 intervention in Afghanistan or reducing U.S. troop levels in Europe.

At the start of a meeting with Prime Minister Ciriaco De Mita at the 16th century Villa Madama government guest house Bush flashed reporters a tight smile when asked about his plans.

But one official said privately that the president would propose lifting the sanctions against the Soviet Union.

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We hope for at least a million people in Peking," said Lu Xiang, a spokesman for the city's independent student union, and student leader Chai Ling said the march of the was "Chinese all over the world unite."

The students' leaders recommended that the 14-day-old occupation of the capital's main square end Tuesday after a final "victory march."

In the first official acknowledgement of a power struggle at the top, former Chinese President Li Xianian accused certain people in the leadership of the Communist Party of creating confusion in China.

The statement by the former president, broadcast on state-run radio and television, came two days after Zhao was reportedly stripped of power and placed under house arrest.

Student leaders demanded an

end to a martial law crackdown, ordered May 20 by Premier Li Peng, and the withdrawal of the tens of thousands of army troops surrounding Beijing.

They said the approximately 10,000 students remaining in the square would make the final decision on whether to leave.

They also called for April 27 to be made into a holiday for Chinese freedom and democracy.

April 27 was the day that hundreds of thousands of students and workers took to the streets in Peking to protest a People's Daily editorial accusing the student movement of being nothing but "turmoil."

The student leaders said they wanted to leave the square because of "sanitation and to return the square to the people."

Tens of thousands of students have occupied the square for more than two weeks since beginning a hunger strike there. Since the hunger strike ended and martial law was declared, thousands of students left Tiananmen, returning to their schools in Peking and elsewhere.

Student leaders demanded an

President Li also was quoted as urging a crackdown on small band of criminals who he said were trying to overthrow the rule of the Communist Party.

"These people have an organisation, a plan and a plot," he said. "If they succeed, China will be thrown into a deep disaster."

In another blow to the moderate faction led by Zhao, Wan Li, the chairman of the standing committee of the National People's Congress, was quoted as throwing his support to Li Peng and other conservatives who ordered martial law.

Wan, moderate, cut short his visit to the United States earlier this week and was initially reported to be placed under house arrest on his arrival Tuesday in Shanghai.

His statement Saturday, also read on state-run radio and television, also blamed the unrest on a small group of dissidents.

"After I had time to study the situation," Wan was quoted as saying, "I realised that a small minority was behind a plot to

(Continued on page 4)

Bhutto calls for removal of Soviet legacy in Kabul

ISTANBUL (Agencies) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Saturday called for what she termed the vestiges of Soviet rule to be removed from Afghanistan to allow the formation in Kabul of a non-aligned, broad-based government.

Bhutto, speaking to reporters before leaving for Iraq after a four-day visit to Turkey, was apparently referring to Afghan President Najibullah.

"The symbols of Soviet rule continue in Kabul. The refusal of these symbols (to go)... is leading to the further agony of Afghanistan," Bhutto said.

Bhutto said Pakistan wanted a non-aligned state to emerge in Afghanistan after a political settlement which would entail "the removal of the vestiges of Soviet rules."

She added that 800 to 1,000 Afghan refugees were still arriving daily in Pakistan from the fighting that followed the completion in February of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan after a nine-year occupation.

"We are unhappy about the military aspect of the situation," Bhutto said, but did not elaborate on Afghan accusations that Pakistani assistance to guerrillas fighting against the Kabul government might push the two neighbours towards war.

Bhutto declined to comment on reports she had replaced Lieutenant-General Hamid Gul, the army intelligence chief who had distributed millions of dollars worth of U.S. military aid to Afghan rebels.

Reports earlier in the week said Gul was replaced by General Shamsur Rahman Kalu, who was retired by the late president Mohammad Zia Ul Haq after he

suggested Zia should forfeit the post of army chief of staff while he was president.

The reports were welcomed by the Afghan government, which said Gul may have been the architect of rebel attacks on Jalalabad and that his ouster could signal a softening of Pakistan's stance towards Afghanistan.

Bhutto said Pakistan was willing to work for a peaceful solution to the civil war in Afghanistan. But she said Afghan groups do not recognise the present administration in Kabul and "there is nothing that we can do about it."

Officials said Friday the governments of Afghanistan and Iran were making progress in efforts aimed at ending the fighting between Afghan armed forces and rebels based in Tehran.

The meetings were his first since the Soviet troops ended nine years of military involvement in Afghanistan Feb. 15.

According to the Soviet officials, Vorontsov said the rebels opposed foreign interference and wanted an Afghan government composed of all groups, something the Soviets also are seeking.

"If Pakistan does not push the seven-party alliance in Peshawar (Pakistan), then Iran will tell the eight-party alliance (in Tehran) to cut a deal with the Soviets and Nujibullah," said the official.

The official said Tehran was important. They oppose a military solution," said one official closely involved in the negotiations.

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The official said Tehran was

anxious to begin repatriating an estimated two million Afghans who have sought exile in Iran during the 11-year-old civil war.

He also said Iran wanted to establish closer ties with the Kremlin and was concerned about the involvement of the Wahhabis in the war.

The Wahhabi sect of Islam is predominant in Saudi Arabia, which backs the guerrillas. But the sect is only a small minority in Afghanistan, where 80 per cent of the population belongs to the mainstream Sunni branch.

Wahhabis are a subgroup within the Sunni branch.

The Tehran-based rebel alliance representing the Shi'ite minority in Afghanistan is at odds with the Sunnis rebels based in Pakistan.

"Tehran has been making overtures to the Soviet Union and our government," said a close adviser to the Afghan president. The official, who also insisted on anonymity, declined to elaborate on the talks, citing confidentiality and sensitivity of the issue.

Soviet Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov held talks with the coalition during a four-day visit to Tehran recently.

Senior Soviet diplomats in Kabul said Vorontsov described the talks as very good.

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Earlier this week, Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub suggested Moscow also resume talks with Afghan rebels in Pakistan for a political settlement.

Moscow made contact with Afghan rebels in Pakistan last December, but the guerrillas, backed largely by the United States and Pakistan, later said they would not talk to the Soviets to cut a deal with the Soviets and Nujibullah," said the official.

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establish closer ties with the Kremlin and was concerned about the involvement of the Wahhabis in the war.



POWS: Eighty-seven soldiers of Afghan army who were captured during the attack on Jalalabad-Kabul road post last month. They were brought to Jagdalek, southeast of Kabul, and released after 20 days by the Mujahideen.

Montazeri resumes teaching

Ayatollah Hosseini Ali Montazeri, sacked by Khomeini as his designated successor, resumed teaching Saturday at Qom theological college, IRNA said.

IRNA said Montazeri opened his class with prayers for the full recovery of Khomeini.

Khomeini's son Ahmad said in

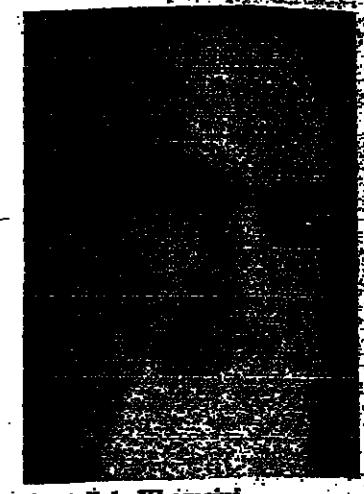
a letter to a newsletter May 16

that Montazeri, a former student of Khomeini, was sacked in

March because he had indirect

contacts with opponents of the

government.



Ayatollah Khomeini

Iran says Khomeini is recovering well

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, is continuing to make a good recovery after an operation last Tuesday and started taking liquid food orally Saturday, the Iranian news agency IRNA said.

It quoted a statement from Khomeini's bureau as saying the 83-year-old leader was "doing perfectly well" after surgery to stop internal bleeding.

Doctors treating Khomeini, who has no designated successor, said Friday he was recovering as expected and his vital organs were functioning satisfactorily.

Tehran Radio said meetings to pray for his health were held across Iran Friday and theological students sacrificed sheep as a gesture of thanksgiving.

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Hosseini Ali Montazeri

Sudan famine relief train hits new snags

KHARTOUM (R) — A train taking vital supplies to famine-hit south Sudan was derailed and delayed for three days after surviving a hold-up by about 200 gunmen, according to a United Nations official.

The train, doing just 10 kilometres an hour, resumed its slow journey Friday after some of its 48 wagons ran off the track Tuesday in a region controlled by rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), U.N. official Peter Schumann told reporters.

He said the 200 gunmen briefly held up the train further north Sunday, stole food and robbed four U.N. officials, including Brian Wannop, head of the "Lifeline" relief operation.

The gunmen took the food of many of the 111 people on board the train and extra supplies might have been sent to it by air, Schumann said.

Diplomats said the raiders probably belonged to an anti-SPLA tribal militia.

Iran's war refugees due to return to Abadan

NICOSIA (R) — Residents of Iran's once-thriving oil refinery city of Abadan, battered in the war with Iraq, will begin returning there next month, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported Friday.

It quoted Mohsen Mirdamadi, governor-general of Khuzestan province, as saying 45,000 houses were damaged in varying degrees in the city, separated from Iraq only by the Shatt Al Arab waterway.

A number of craftsmen have returned to Abadan and glass cutters, carpenters and door and window makers can start work before June 15," Mirdamadi told a news conference.

He said the government had allocated foreign exchange to import 25,000 air-conditioners for Abadan and the nearby port of Khorramshahr, where the temperature often soars above 40 Celsius (104 Fahrenheit).

Up to 10,000 workers at Abadan's oil refinery, which resumed operation in April, live in the city

Israeli Arabs feel more Palestinian, study says

TEL AVIV (R) — The 17-month-old Palestinian uprising has strengthened the identity of young Israeli Arabs as Palestinians, according to study of high school seniors.

The study of 313 Israeli Arabs, published in the Israeli daily Al Hanissim, said 83 per cent felt their sense of Palestinian identity had risen during the revolt against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

At the same time, 73 per cent said their Israeli identity declined, 26 per cent said it remained the same and three per cent said it increased.

Dr. Mahmoud Miani, who conducted the survey, found that 85 per cent of the students regarded themselves as Arabs, 83 per cent as Palestinians, 26 per cent as Israeli Arabs and seven per cent as Israelis.

About 700,000 Arabs live in pre-1967 Israel as Israeli citizens.

The study said most Israeli Arabs opposed or had reservations about contact with Jews and half said the uprising had decreased their willingness to become involved with Jews.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

128 hanged in Iran in 2 weeks

NICOSIA (AP) — Eleven Iranian drug traffickers were hanged Saturday in the northern city of Tabriz, the official Iranian news agency (IRNA) reported, bringing the number of such executions to 128 in the past two weeks. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the 11 were convicted for buying and selling heroin overseas and for trafficking in drugs locally. The IRNA report did not specify the amounts involved. The 11 were hanged in public in Tabriz, the capital of east Azerbaijan province 515 kilometres northwest of Tehran. The latest hangings brought the number of drug-related executions to 688 since the government started the sweep in January that mandates the death penalty for even small amounts of drugs. The campaign gave drug addicts six months to stop or face prosecution. The deadline is July 23 and Iranian officials have announced that addicts will be sent to labour camps for at least a year. At least two million of Iran's 50 million population are reportedly involved in drug use.

3 held for Iran arms bid

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (R) — Two Canadians and a Swede were arrested here late Thursday on charges of attempting to buy and ship more than \$600 million worth of weapons and munitions to Iran. The three were arraigned Friday before a federal magistrate for violations of the U.S. arms export control act, money laundering statutes and conspiracy laws, U.S. customs service spokesman Charles Conroy told Reuters. The arrests were

part of a 18-month undercover investigation. The arrests were the result of an 18-month undercover investigation, Conroy said. The three suspects, Ronald Arabi and wife Eileen of Vancouver, British Columbia, and Erik Nissen of Norrkoping, Sweden, had lived in Corpus Christi for several months while they attempted to buy weapons, Conroy said. "They had quite a shopping list," he said. Included on their list were C-130 aircraft parts, a complete attack helicopter, 106-mm recoilless rifles and ammunition, an F-5B trainer jet, an F-5E fighter jet and parts for F-4 and F-14 Phantom jets, Conroy said.

Iran brushes aside condemnation

NICOSIA (R) — Iran described the European Parliament Friday as a gathering of mediocre politicians and said its statement condemning Tehran's "medieval regime" was best ignored. "The European parliament is a place which mediocre people who have no use in their countries get elected to," Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told a mass prayer meeting at Tehran University. A majority of the 518-member parliament signed a resolution Wednesday urging European Community (EC) states to break off relations with Tehran and "make every effort to exclude this medieval regime from the United Nations." The statement, which is not binding on the 12 EC countries, said Iran's seat at the United Nations should be occupied by the opposition Mujahideen-e-Khalq group, based in Iraq. Rafsanjani said the parliament's backing of the Mujahideen, whose guerrilla warfare campaign peaked in 1981, exposed double standards in its attitude to terrorism. "I don't think they deserve a reaction. I expect our media not to pay attention to them," Rafsanjani said in his sermon.

Iranian minister visits Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammadi Besharati arrived in Ankara Friday with a message from Prime Minister Mir-Hussein Mousavi for Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, officials said. Besharati's visit is the first high-level contact between the two countries since a diplomatic row which resulted in both recalling their ambassadors April 3. Ankara accused Iran of meddling in its internal affairs after protests in Tehran over a Turkish court ban on Islamic-style headscarves being worn on university campuses.

"It is possible that Mousavi's message will contain Iran's views on ending the strain on the relations," a Turkish Foreign Ministry source said. Iran's ambassador to Ankara, Manoochehr Mottaki, returned to Turkey last week to prepare for his permanent departure and is expected to leave with Besharati Saturday, the ministry said.

Gold-stuffed tomb unearthed in Iraq

NICOSIA (AP) — Archaeologists have unearthed the gold-stuffed tomb of two women in what appears to be the richest single discovery ever made at ancient Nimrud in northern Iraq.

The 2,700-year-old tomb in the palace of King Ashurnasirpal II contained more than 25 kilograms of gold jewellery including diadems, necklaces, earrings, belts and anklets, according to the English-language Baghdad Observer.

The Iraqi News Agency, monitored in Cyprus, carried details of the newspaper report.

Nimrud, a sprawling site around 400 kilometres north of Baghdad, was a major city of the Assyrian empire that extended from the Gulf to the Mediterranean in the first millennium B.C.

Ashurnasirpal was a ruthless but brilliant military leader who built the vast palace at Nimrud in the 9th century B.C.

Scores of Iraqi and foreign archaeological teams have dug at Nimrud in a century-and-a-half of excavations since British explorer Henry Layard uncovered huge stone sculptures and inscriptions there in the 1840s.

Among them was British archaeologist Max Mallowan, the husband of crime writer Agatha Christie, who excavated close to the newly found tomb between 1949 and 1958.

Some of Layard's and Mallowan's finds are displayed in the British museum in London, as well as in Iraq's national museum in Baghdad.

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The navy says 15 crew members of the USS Vincennes, the cruiser that shot down an Iranian jetliner in the Gulf last summer, will be disciplined for drug abuse.

"There is no connection now to the July 3 incident in the (Arabian) Gulf to what happened on board the Vincennes," said navy commander David Dillon, spokesman for Pacific Fleet surface force headquarters.

The Vincennes, meanwhile, will be shifted to Long Beach naval shipyard within five weeks for modifications to correct deficiencies in the Aegis electronic combat control system, the San Diego Tribune reported Friday.

Aegis, which would enable a

ship like the Vincennes to make computer-recommended battle decisions for entire fleets, was found flawed in the Gulf confrontation.

According to defence department analysts, split-second decisions were affected by the inability of radar-scope interpreters to immediately match the plane's "blip" with digital direction, altitude and speed information displayed on another screen.

Dillon noted that the 15 sailors represent 3.9 per cent of the 384 sailors on board. "That is less than the 5.4 per cent average for the entire navy," he said.

The announcement came as preparations were under way at the naval station San Diego for

the airliner's destruction.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is investigating the attack as possible retaliation for the airliner's destruction.

Vincennes sailors disciplined for drugs

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Arabic 15:48



Queen Noor opens Goethe Forest exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday opened the Goethe Forest photo exhibition, which the Ministry of Agriculture is holding at the Royal Cultural Centre in cooperation with the Goethe Institute.

The five-day exhibition includes 50 photographs, which German photographer Sigrid

Neubert took at the Goethe Forest which covers a 40,000-dunum area south of Tafileh. Present were Agriculture Minister Dr. Adnan Badran, the Agriculture Ministry's secretary general, a number of officials, and the West German chargé d'affaires in Amman.

Expensive input, expensive output

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Adnan Badran said Saturday that the cost of requirements for agricultural input has soared and became one of the major obstacles that impede an increase in production. The high cost of farming requirements has indeed weakened Jordan's production capacity and rendered it helpless in the face of outside competition in foreign markets, Badran said at a meeting at the Ministry of Agriculture, attended by its Secretary General Salem Al Waziri and senior ministry officials.

As Jordan takes steps to expand its foreign markets where it can sell its agricultural crops, there is an equal need to intensify

efforts to reduce the cost of input so that Jordanian farmers can make a reasonable profit and get encouragement to increase the output, the minister noted.

Badran requested that the ministry's economic and planning department create a special unit to monitor the local market's needs of all types of vegetables and fruits and also to carefully monitor the various quantities of crops produced for the local market. He also asked that a study should start immediately on agricultural cost in the Kingdom.

The Ministry of Agriculture should reach a quick decision on ways to reduce the cost of agricultural output in the light of the

study, the minister noted.

He said that the study on the farming requirements should cover such matters as fertilisers, seeds, containers, farming machinery and other implements and requirements in addition to water used for irrigation.

Agriculture is a basic element in the national economy and therefore the door should be opened wide for agricultural exports, and also measures taken to attain self-sufficiency in various crops, the minister pointed out. He said that the new unit was formed with the aim of ensuring sufficient amounts of fruits and vegetables for the local market under all circumstances.

Malhas inspects rehabilitation centre

ZARQA (Petra, J.T.) — Health and Social Development Minister Zuhair Malhas Saturday called at a vocational and rehabilitation centre being set up at Ruseifa near here by the Ministry of Social Development in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The minister inspected parts of the project and was briefed on services and training facilities which it plans to offer to handicapped persons from different parts of the country.

The minister chaired a meeting for officials and specialists in charge of the project to discuss its needs and programmes. Malhas called for an expansion of the

training services to include programmes for production to benefit the handicapped, and called for the creation of similar centres in the badia and the southern regions of the country.

Work on the project started in September 1988; and according to specialists and officials it will cater for the needs of handicapped trainees of both sexes, and will provide training in dressmaking, carpentry, upholstery, shoe-making, book binding and other crafts.

They said the ILO provided the necessary equipment which cost nearly \$150,000. They added that a special programme to provide the instructors with skills necessary for training has already started.

RJ increases flights to Far East

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) airlines has recently announced an increase in frequencies on its number of its routes to the Far East, subject to government approval. Destinations involved are Bangkok, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Calcutta, and Delhi.

Effective June 1, the Singapore/Kuala Lumpur destinations will be accessible to RJ passengers three times weekly, versus the

earlier two, RJ announced. In mid-June, non-stop flights to both Calcutta and Delhi are doubling from once to twice weekly. In July, RJ will add another Asian destination with a weekly non-stop flight to Colombo, Sri Lanka.

As of October 1, the airline will increase its number of non-stop flights to Bangkok to four times weekly, one more than the present three flights per week.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * A photography exhibition by Adib Atwan at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- * An archaeological exhibition entitled "The Treasures of Hama Desert" at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre.
- * An art exhibition by three North African artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- * An art exhibition by Ahmad Abu Othman at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- * A photography exhibition entitled "Amman Under King Hussein's Reign" at the North Roman Catholic School, Zarqa.
- * An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Klaara Matseobokhian at the Petra Bank Gallery.
- * An exhibition of scientific experiments, Jordanian chemical industries, books, computers and children's paintings at the University of Jordan Model School.
- * A photography exhibition entitled "Amman Under King Hussein's Reign" at the North Roman Catholic School, Zarqa.
- * An exhibition by Jordanian artist Klaara Matseobokhian at the Petra Bank Gallery.
- * An exhibition of documents and photos depicting Jordan's history and development under His Majesty King Hussein, at Mafraq Youth Centre.

THEATRE

- * A children's Arabic play entitled "Tabourai's Shoes" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 10:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m.

FILM

- * A feature film entitled "Hannah and her Sisters" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

King receives cables of congratulations

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received a number of cables of congratulation from a number of country leaders, on the occasion of Independence Day.

King Hussein received cables from King Fahed of Saudi Arabia and his regent, the president of the Republic of Tunisia and the president of the Republic of Djibouti. The King also received cables from the president of Finland and the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

Among the celebrations of Greater Amman Municipality on this occasion, the mayor, Abdul Ra'uf Rawabdeh Saturday opened a public park in Wadi Seer. The 13 dunum park, planted with 3,000 trees is called Al Wahda after the Arab Cooperation Council.

The Balqa Governorate marked the Independence Day with a graduation of students trained in sewing by the Islamic Charitable Society in Salt.

Majali attends cultural festival

AMMAN (Petra) — Culture and Information Minister Nasouh Majali Saturday attended a cultural festival the Ministry of Culture and Information organised at the Royal Cultural Centre on the occasion of Jordan's Independence Day.

The festival included poetry recitations and artistic shows.

Industrial fair begins

AMMAN (J.T.) — A permanent Jordanian industrial exhibition was opened Saturday at the Sahab Industrial City (SIC) with more than 80 local companies displaying samples of their products.

Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Innab opened the exhibition as part of Jordan's celebration of Independence Day and in the presence of dignitaries and presidents of Jordanian chambers of industry and trade.

On display at the exhibition is a wide variety of pharmaceuticals, foodstuffs, engineering and construction materials, electric appliances and plastic products.

According to Suheimat, factories set up at the SIC produce food, electrical appliances, plastics, leather, rubber products, chemicals and textiles, furniture, paper and medicines among others.

still exists for more companies and factories to display their products at the exhibition to promote sales.

The SIC employs some 4,000 people working for different industrial plants and businesses set up in the industrial zone.

The general situation in public hospitals is far from being satisfactory because hospitals lack proper infrastructure in order for them to operate successfully, Hanania said in a statement published by Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily.

Most of Jordan's hospitals were built in the 1950s, and no sufficient funds were allocated since then towards improving their performance and to enable them to cope with modern developments in health and medical services.

The announcement said that the two bridges will be closed to traffic completely on Friday, June 9, 1989, and will reopen Sunday June 11.

although strenuous efforts are required in this process.

Hanania referred to the general health services in the Kingdom and said thanks to the efforts of the Health Ministry they are satisfactory. Health services have succeeded in reducing child mortality rate in the Kingdom from 180 per thousand to a mere 35 per thousand children annually, and this is largely due to the effective service of the primary health care provided by the Ministry of Health and its various centres around the Kingdom, Hanania was Saturday quoted as saying.

The general situation in public hospitals is far from being satisfactory because hospitals lack proper infrastructure in order for them to operate successfully, Hanania said in a statement published by Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily.

He said that the NMI did not easily be carried out in view of their high cost. He said that the King Abdullah hospital, for example, is expected to cost JD 24 million in addition to a JD 8 million for installations and other equipment.

But he said the NMI is going ahead with plans for re-organising the work of the existing hospitals, the nursing services and health schemes for all members of the public.



Sharif Zaid visits Passports Dept.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salim Misadeh (left)

Saturday paid an inspection visit to the Passports Department and examined services offered to the public.

The visit is part in a series of field tours that the prime minister intends to pay to various departments providing public service, and is designed to serve as a means to spur civil servants do double their efforts in the course of discharging their

duties in a simpler form and to facilitate the needs of the public as much as possible.

The Passports Department is one of a number of Jordanian government offices which are normally visited by large numbers of citizens specially in the summer to renew or get new passports.

Students who finish their secondary education and pass the Tawjih examination also converge on the Passports Department to prepare for their travel abroad for studies.

NMI draws plan to upgrade public hospitals

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Medical Institution (NMI) has worked out a plan to improve the services of the country's public hospitals at the cost of JD 13 million;

and the process will be carried out in stages in view of the current financial situation, NMI Director General Daoud Hanania was Saturday quoted as saying.

The general situation in public hospitals is far from being satisfactory because hospitals lack proper infrastructure in order for them to operate successfully, Hanania said in a statement published by Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily.

Most of Jordan's hospitals were built in the 1950s, and no sufficient funds were allocated since then towards improving their performance and to enable them to cope with modern developments in health and medical services.

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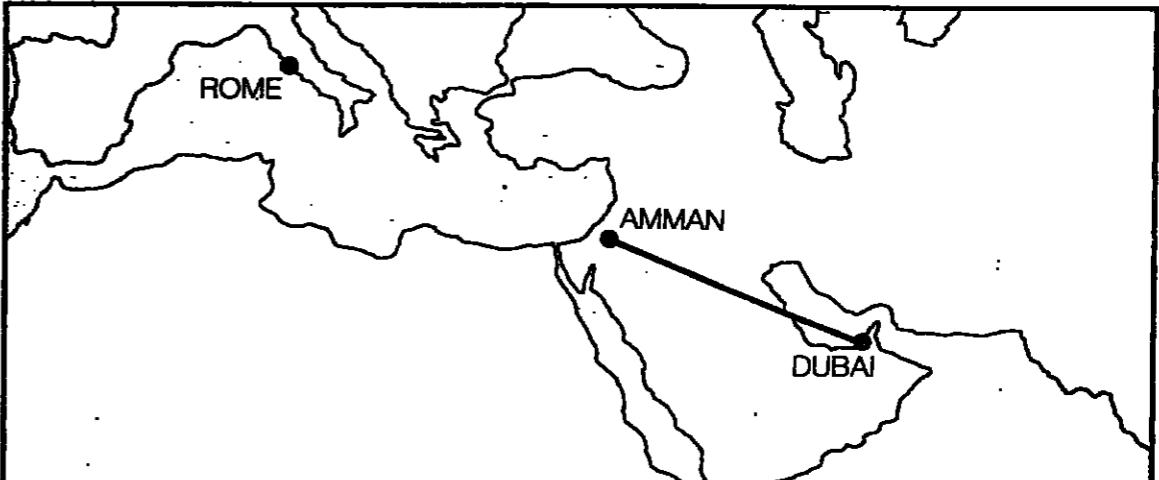
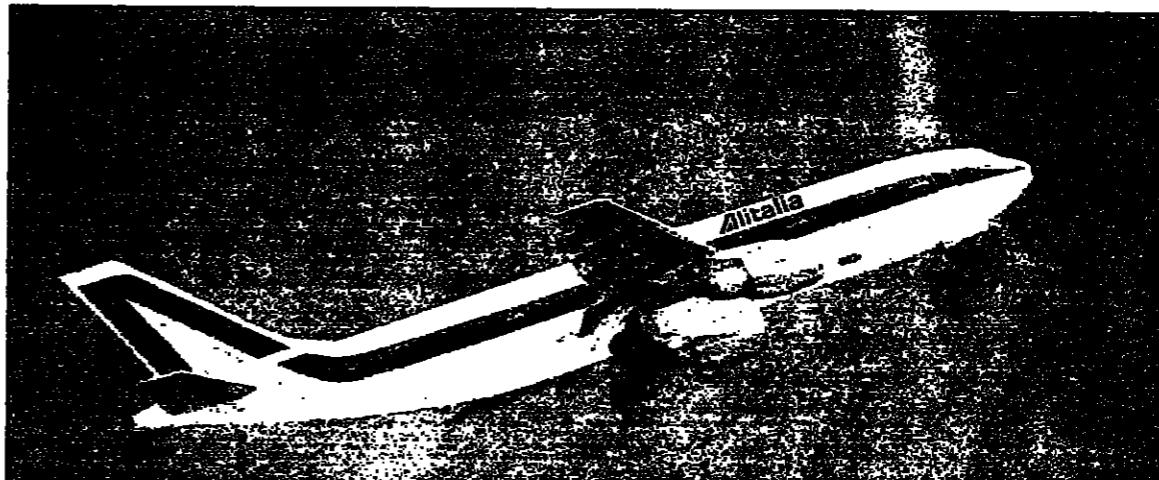
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AMMAN - DUBAI

FLT./No.	DEP.	ARR.
AMMAN-DUBAI TUESDAY & SATURDAY	AZ 730	18.55 22.55 (AB 4)
DUBAI-AMMAN WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY	AZ 731	03.10 05.20 (AB 4)

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Innovative ideas — need of the day

THE SCHOLASTIC year is coming to an end soon, and we are going to see thousands of children as well as teenagers playing or just loitering in the streets as soon as the schools and colleges close. It is high time that the authorities gave concerted attention to draw up a programme, with immediate priority for its implementation, to offer suitable facilities for the country's youth to utilise their spare time creatively. There is no denying the fact that some work had been undertaken and carried out in building parks and recreational facilities for the youth, but what is presently available in the country is a far cry from what is actually needed. The situation will further be exacerbated with the expected arrival here on vacation of thousands of Jordanian expatriate families in addition to Arab and foreign visitors to the country.

In many countries, mostly in the West, students take up summer employment wherever available; supermarkets, gas stations, offices etc. etc. But such avenues are no longer available to the Jordanian youngsters simply because of the dire unemployment situation and the economic and financial strains that the country is facing today.

But, while allowing for the difficult economic conditions that the country is passing through at this point in time, it is only conceivable that the ingenuous abilities of some of our planners could be put to the right use in coming up with innovative ideas compatible with the available resources to serve the need of the youth. Efforts aimed at drawing the youth to creative work in the service of the country do work; but only to an extent, beyond which they cannot be pushed simply because of their need to relax and be at peace with themselves.

On paper, there are enough and more of facilities for our children and some do exist on the ground. But, let us face it, some of the facilities are beyond the reach of the financial means available to an average parent-on-the-street. While not denying the requirements of administering and running such facilities, one gets a feeling that some of the public facilities are more commercially oriented than recreational. Even at that, everyone of them is fully packed during weekends and the situation would only turn worse during the long summer vacation.

One of the hypocrisies of children and teenagers having idle time in their hands is the alarming trend towards delinquency, which needs higher organisation and expenditure to address, not to mention its long-term consequences and impact on the society. Also, the youths' feeling of uselessness that arises from the state of inaction is detrimental to the national interest, which pins its hopes on the future generations.

It is time something is done, and done fast.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Jordanian Arabic dailies Saturday commented on the outcome of the Casablanca Arab summit which ended Friday after discussing the Gulf, Palestine and the Lebanon issues.

Al Ra'i daily said that the summit's unlimited support for the Palestinian intifada and the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom was a source of pride to all Arabs and something which gives cause for deep satisfaction and optimism for the future. The paper said the support means that the Arab Nation is now totally committed to back the struggle of the Palestinian people morally, financially, materially and politically until the oppressed people can regain their rights in their own homeland. The summit has also voiced full support for the PLO's drive to achieve a peaceful settlement through an international conference and rejected the Shamir elections proposal, the paper noted. By this the Arab World has adopted the Palestine plan and committed itself to work in unity and consensus to help the Palestinians in their just struggle, the paper added. The paper also noted with satisfaction the summit's decision to pursue efforts towards re-establishing permanent peace in the Gulf and reconciliation and stability in Lebanon.

Al Dastour for its part said that the summit in Casablanca offered the Arab leaders a very good chance for consultation and discussion on three chronic issues of concern to all the Arab masses. But indeed the outcome proved that the leaders had given more attention to the central issue: Palestine and to the means by which the Arab people of Palestine can be helped to regain their freedom, the paper noted. It said the whole Arab Nation has come out in support of the Palestinian people and their legitimate representative in the ongoing struggle for freedom and the whole Arab World has now pledged to extend all possible aid to the oppressed people in their resistance of Israeli occupation. The formation of a higher committee led by King Hassan of Morocco to pursue efforts at the international level to achieve peace in the Middle East and to back the PLO was a clear manifestation by the Arab Nation to advocate the cause of the Palestinians now locked up in bloody confrontation with the Israeli invaders for freedom, the paper said.

Sav Al Shaab daily said that King Hussein who hosted the summit of agreement and consensus in Amman was the most prominent Arab leader at the Casablanca summit who worked hard to bring the Arab leaders to an agreement on a common denominator. The paper said that the monarch paved the way for a strong Arab stand at the summit based on solid foundation of unity and helped to bring about reconciliations among Arab leaders to achieve that goal. Over the past four days the Arab leaders in general and King Hussein in particular were busy trying to find an acceptable formula that would define collective action in the coming stage and the summit has indeed succeeded in canvassing greater support for the Palestinian people's struggle and paved the ground for a solution to the Lebanese crisis, the paper noted. It said that the Arab leaders have pledged to continue their relentless efforts to solve common Arab issues and to bring about peace in the Arab region.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

IMF programmes: Standard or tailor-made?

By Dr. Fayed Radi

MANY countries, including some Arab countries applied for the assistance of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and reached agreements of restructuring ahead of Jordan. The Arab countries include Tunisia, Morocco, Sudan and Egypt. Other Arab countries, such as Iraq and Syria, refused to submit to the tough IMF programme and opted to try to solve their acute problems on their own.

Arab countries that adopted the programme were either greatly successful, such as Tunisia and Morocco; or partially successful like Egypt, or a complete failure, like the Sudan.

Certain observers believe that the IMF has a ready-made programme that it prescribes for every debt-ridden developing country; others however, brush this aside and insist that the programmes are tailored to the particular circumstances of each concerned country.

Whether the prescription has to be adapted to the patient or the patient is required to adapt himself to the prescription, it is true that there are common parts among all the programmes formulated for the countries that were subjected to adjustment, while other parts differ in accordance to the circumstances.

Jordan has its own particulars in its position, population,

quality of manpower, style of economic management, the extent of dependence on external aid, the expatriates remittances, the large scale openness to world markets, the big size of its budget, the large role of the public sector, the structure of the indebtedness and its distribution among governments and banks, Arab and foreign, and the loan nature: developmental, commercial or military.

All these particular circumstances call for a specially tailored programme, but that in itself does not exclude the common part of all IMF programmes applicable to all other developing countries.

The unified part stems from the fact that all restructuring programmes have one main common objective to achieve, and that is adjusting the economic system so that the people and the government could live within their own means.

This common objective has a cost, which must be paid, and could not be avoided, at least not in the short run. The cost could become much higher if nothing was done about it for long.

In summary, the IMF programme is sound economically and financially, but very costly in political and social terms. I don't want to look like the devil advocate if I say that the political and

social costs do not arise from the programme, but they arise from the adoption of the wrong financial, economic, commercial, and monetary policies which in the first place made the resort to IMF inevitable.

Unwise policies and uncontrolled expansion have a price. The IMF programme is only one way to pay this price in a systematic manner in accordance with a plan. Without the programme the price would be heavier since it will not be tied to a timetable.

The opponents of the IMF programme do not deny wisdom behind the basic elements upon which the programme is built, such as the reduction of budget deficit, the enhancement of exports, the curbing of imports, the reduction of consumption, the control of inflation, the realistic exchange rate, the flexibility in labour market, and the removal of distortions from the economy.

These policies represent the common parts of all IMF programmes recommended and are embodied in a package of financial, credit, monetary, and labour policies to fit the circumstances.

No doubt the IMF programme is a bitter medicine, but the alternative, I am afraid, is worse.

Arab summit's final communique

This is a partial text of the final communique of the emergency Arab summit which ended in Casablanca Friday (unofficial Reuter translation from Arabic).

"At the initiative of His Majesty King Hassan II, the king of Morocco, and at his invitation, the emergency Arab summit conference met in Casablanca from May 23 to 26, 1989..."

"In its opening session the conference welcomed the delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt led by President Mohammad Hosni Mubarak and Egypt's resumption of its full membership of the Arab League... and expressed its conviction that Egypt's presence in its natural place among fellow Arab states would help reinforce joint Arab action... bringing benefits, honour and prosperity to the Arab nation..."

Intifada

"The conference hailed the intifada of the Palestinian people... and decided to continue providing all forms of support and assistance to it, so that the Palestinian people under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, its sole legitimate representative, can continue its resistance and escalate the heroic intifada against the Israeli occupation..."

"The conference condemned the crimes of the Israeli occupation and its practices against the Arab people in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and called on the Security Council to carry out its duty towards these crimes and practices, including the possibility of imposing sanctions on Israel."

"The conference affirmed the foundations on which is based the Arab peace plan endorsed by the 12th Arab summit in Fez and reaffirmed by the emergency Arab summit in Algiers, the foundations which aim to liberate from Israeli occupation Palestinian and Arab territories occupied since 1967 and to enable the Palestinian people to practice their inalienable national rights, including the right to return, to self-determination and to set up its independent national state with Jerusalem as its capital under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation... and to mobilise Arab resources in various fields to achieve an overall strategic balance to confront aggressive Israeli plans and to safeguard Arab rights."

PLO strategy

"The conference welcomed the resolutions of the 19th session of the Palestine National Council and affirmed its support for the Palestinian peace initiative based on the Arab peace plan and on international legitimacy..."

"The conference blessed the creation of the independent Palestinian state, expressed its determination to support and assist it in all ways possible, expressed its appreciation of the friendly states which have recognised it officially and called on the other

states in the world to give the state full recognition and enable it to exercise its sovereignty over its national territory..."

"The conference supported the holding of the international conference for peace in the Middle East, with the participation of the five permanent member states of the Security Council and all the parties to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, with the aim of reaching an overall settlement on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 of 1967 and 338 of 1973 and all other U.N. resolutions on Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and agreement on security guarantees for all states in the region, including the State of Palestine, and solving the Palestinian refugee problem in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 194 of 1948 and to consider that all relevant U.N. resolutions still provide the terms of international legitimacy which guaranteed the right of the Palestinian people to set up its independent state..."

"The conference approved the formation of a higher committee chaired by King Hassan to act and make the appropriate international contacts in the name of Arab League with the aim of activating the peace process and taking part in preparations for the international conference..."

"The conference supported the Palestinian position on the subject of elections — that they should take place after Israeli withdrawal from occupied Palestinian territory and under international supervision and in the framework of a comprehensive peace plan, seeing that the Israeli plan aims to strike at the intifada, bypass the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people. The conference affirms the need to insist on Israeli withdrawal from occupied Palestinian and Arab territory and to place the occupied Palestinian territories under U.N. supervision for a temporary period to enable the Palestinian people to exercise its right to self-determination..."

Lebanon

"The conference expressed its extreme concern at what is happening in Lebanon, which is a founding member of the Arab League and which has always helped to reinforce joint Arab action..."

"The conference studied with great interest the tragic situation in Lebanon and its repercussions and effects on Lebanese unity and the national security of the Arab Nation and affirmed the need for Arab action to reach a solution which restores to Lebanon its stability and security and safeguards its Arab nature and territorial unity..."

"The conference praised the mediation efforts of the Arab committee of six and urged all the Lebanese parties to cooperate to reach overall national reconciliation and achieve the national entente which would pave the way for final solution of the Lebanese crisis in all its aspects..."

"The conference asked all the Lebanese parties to respect the ceasefire immediately, permanently and fully in line with the Arab League Council Resolution of April, 1989..."

"The conference decided to form a committee composed of King Hassan II of Morocco, King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia and President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria..."

"This committee will have the task of carrying out the contacts and measures it deems fit with all the parties concerned with the aim of creating the right atmosphere for summoning members of the (Lebanese) parliament to discuss a political reform document. This should happen within six months at the latest. The conference also announced it was willing to convene at the end of this period if necessary to look at what has been achieved and at subsequent developments..."

"It similarly supported Lebanon's international efforts to end the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory and to support the extension of sovereignty of the Lebanese state fully over all Lebanese territory with the objective of protecting its security and stability by its own forces..."

Iran-Iraq war

"The conference... expressed its deep satisfaction at the end of fighting (in the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq) and at the start of negotiations..."

"In the belief that the ceasefire should be a turning-point on the way to bringing about a just, lasting and comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran, stability, security and peace in the region, it expressed its hope that the ceasefire could quickly be transformed into peace..."

"The conference affirmed its total solidarity with Iraq in protecting its unity, territorial integrity and historic rights to sovereignty over the Shatt Al Arab..."

"The conference affirmed the need for the Arab media adhere to ethical and pan-Arab standards and to avoid insults and practices which inflame disputes..."

U.S.-Libya dispute

"The conference affirmed its resolution and the resolution of the Arab League Council condemning the U.S. attack on the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and deplored the economic boycott measures which the United States has taken against Libya and called for the need to lift these measures. The conference similarly expressed its support and backing for Libya's sovereignty over the Gulf of Sirte in line with international charters..."

"The conference renewed its condemnation of terrorism in all its shapes and forms and whatever its source and affirmed the need to rely on legal methods approved by international charters and to adhere to the principles of right, justice and international legitimacy in defending national interests and achieving noble aims..."

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After all Hong Kong is Chinese

By Chris Peterson
Reuters

HONG KONG — Whatever the outcome of Peking's turmoil, Hong Kong's Chinese people seem to have found a political identity that could mean profound changes for the colony ahead of the 1997 handover to China.

"In a sense, Hong Kong has become more Chinese," wrote political commentator Frank Ching in Friday's South China Morning Post.

Analysts say last Sunday's demonstration on Hong Kong island, which attracted a million people chanting in support of Peking's students and against hardline Premier Li Peng, revealed a political consciousness that had not been seen before.

"I think it all came together then, and the proof has been that the momentum has gathered pace during the week. There have been people outside Xinhua (China's official news agency and its de facto embassy here) non-stop ever since," a Western diplomat said.

"It will be interesting to see another march this weekend. It will be a sure sign that the momentum is there," said analyst Bob Broadfoot of the political and economic risk consultancy.

Organisers of a marathon concert featuring more than 100 local pop performers hope to attract over a quarter of a million people to the happy valley racecourse opposite the Xinhua building next Saturday.

Rallies planned

In addition, various pressure groups are organising a number of rallies over the weekend and

all police leave has been cancelled.

"All this means Hong Kong's people will be pressing for greater autonomy in the future," said Broadfoot, adding that newly formed Hong Kong groups might try to talk directly with the Chinese government.

"They will want to establish a dialogue. If they don't get it together, they are eventually going to vote with their feet," he added.

"It's now a question of which will be the greater force in Hong Kong — those running away or those protesting," he added.

More than 45,000 of Hong Kong's six million people emigrated in 1988 and almost as many were expected to leave this year according to official forecasts made before the present unrest in China.

Chinese sovereignty

Hong Kong is due to revert to Chinese sovereignty under a 1984 joint declaration by London and Peking. China has pledged to maintain its capitalist structure and lifestyle for 50 years.

Ching said that if China's political landscape changed, it might be necessary to renegotiate the 1984 agreement.

The Western diplomat said Hong Kong's government should bring a greater degree of democracy to the colony sooner rather than later.

There are no directly elected members in Hong Kong's legislative council, which debates policy and approves public finance. But earlier this week legislators decided to push for 50 per cent of the legislature to be directly elected by 1997, with all members being popularly chosen by 2003.

By Jeff Franks
Reuters

HOUSTON — Once-macho Texas has seen its banks fold and its oil revenue tumble.

Now the frontier state is being taken over by women.

When Lila Cockrell is sworn in on May 31 as mayor of San Antonio, the state's third largest cities will all have women mayors — a turn of events that would have been unimaginable not so long ago.

Cockrell will join mayors Kathy Whitmire in Houston and Annette Strauss in Dallas as Texas' top municipal leaders.

Political observers say the rise of women here is part of a long-term social and political change in the state. In contrast to its raucous, hell-for-leather image, Texas has been toned down by larger forces and humbled by its economic problems.

It is no longer a bastion of frontier values.

"When it reached the stage where we had to wear seatbelts in our pick-up trucks and couldn't carry open beers in the car anymore, we knew Texas was ready for women mayors," joked political consultant Pat Cox.

Women have been climbing the Texas political ladder for years but have only just reached the top rung.

"It has been a very slow, patient sort of process of serving at the local level, proving our expertise and gaining credibility. I think the public understands that, by and large, we do a very good job," said state Treasurer Ann

Richards.

Richards — who went national last summer when she lambasted George Bush in a speech at a major Democratic Party convention — said Texas has never been as male-dominated as was thought.

"I know the image is macho, but I never thought it was real. This has been a very, very good state for women in public office," she said. "We are probably ahead of other states in terms of women in local government."

Cox the consultant says women's success here is part of a national trend towards certain types of candidates.

"It's not liberal or conservative so much as it is egalitarian. Voters now select candidates on the basis of competence, management skills and image. They go beyond the stereotypes," he said.

Minorities and liberals

The three mayors are seen as moderates who have won power by building coalitions with minority groups and liberals.

Before winning office, Strauss and Whitmire lacked strong support from the business community — the traditional rulers of local politics in Texan cities. But Strauss said: "It wasn't long after the election that many in the business community called to say:

"We're 100 per cent behind you."

Cockrell, 67, who served two terms as San Antonio mayor in the 1970s, was a business favourite from the start.

"I return for its support, the business community has been re-

warded with mayors who, like those in most American cities today, spend much of their time promoting economic development.

Such missionary work is seen as crucial for Texas' devastated economy, where nine of its top 10 banks were bought or merged with other banks when problems set in after oil prices fell in 1986.

"Some people initially had trouble accepting the fact that the new mayor was not a man," but those problems have faded, said Strauss, who recently won a second term by a landslide.

Whitmire, who has ruled Houston for eight years, this autumn faces a tough re-election fight against a popular former mayor.

But whether Whitmire wins or loses, by 1990 the political power of women in Texas could be even more far-reaching.

State treasurer Richards has all but announced her intention to run for governor that year and she is one of the favourites.

"I will make an announcement in June. My decision is virtually made and everything is good" she told reporters.

If Richards wins, she will not be the first women governor of Texas. That honour belongs to Miriam "Ma" Ferguson, who was elected in 1924 and 1932.

But she would be the first woman governor to rule alongside female mayors in the state's major cities.

"Texas is not all oil, gas and cowboys anymore. Change has been slow to come to Texas, but now it's here in a hurry," Cox said.

Texan women participate in parade, Austin Texas.



Fungus devastates lifestyle in Indonesia

By Menuk Suwondo
Reuters

SUNGKEP — A quick-spreading fungus is devastating pepper plantations on Indonesia's Bangka Island — and post-harvest festivities as well.

More than 60 per cent of Indonesia's pepper is produced on the island, off Sumatra, where the phytophthora fungus is wiping out whole crops in two to 10 days.

Twenty-five thousand tonnes of white pepper, Bangka's main crop, were exported in 1988. "I

don't think we can reach the same level this year," said Haji Sahaq, a leading farmer in southern Bangka who has planted only two hectares of his 10 hectares of land.

"Our fancy parties and new cars may have to drop from the list," Sahaq added. "All our concern is about this damned fungus."

Traditionally festive multiple weddings follow the pepper harvest. Several village couples, children of plantation owners, usually get together to celebrate their marriages at lavish parties.

The weddings are not the harvest's only bounty. New cars from the capital Jakarta suddenly appear in the villages. Houses get complete face-lifts every year.

"No problem with money. After the harvest, they spent as much as they got. They bought anything as long as it was expensive," an agriculture official said.

"But now they have to tighten their belts. They not only face a fungus and a worse crop, but they have to struggle for a better price as well," the official said.

Indonesia supplies half the world's pepper needs but prices

have dropped steadily over the past year. The central bureau of statistics said last year's price was 7.4 million rupiah (\$4,200) per tonne compared with the current 4.7 million (\$2,700) in the local market.

"We want to get better prices, but it seems to be a buyers' market," Sahaq said. "Brokers also control the price. We have to sell our pepper at their price since we badly need money to pay workers and buy fungicide."

Nearly all Indonesian producers are smallholders, selling their

pepper through middlemen who collect it for export.

No affected land on Bangka can be replanted until it is completely free of fungus. Land now lies fallow all around the island.

Adjat, an agriculture researcher, said the disease was raging through almost half the island's pepper plantations.

The agriculture department initially expected Indonesia to increase its pepper production to 42,000 tonnes in this crop year from 40,000 tonnes last year.

But the spread of the fungus,

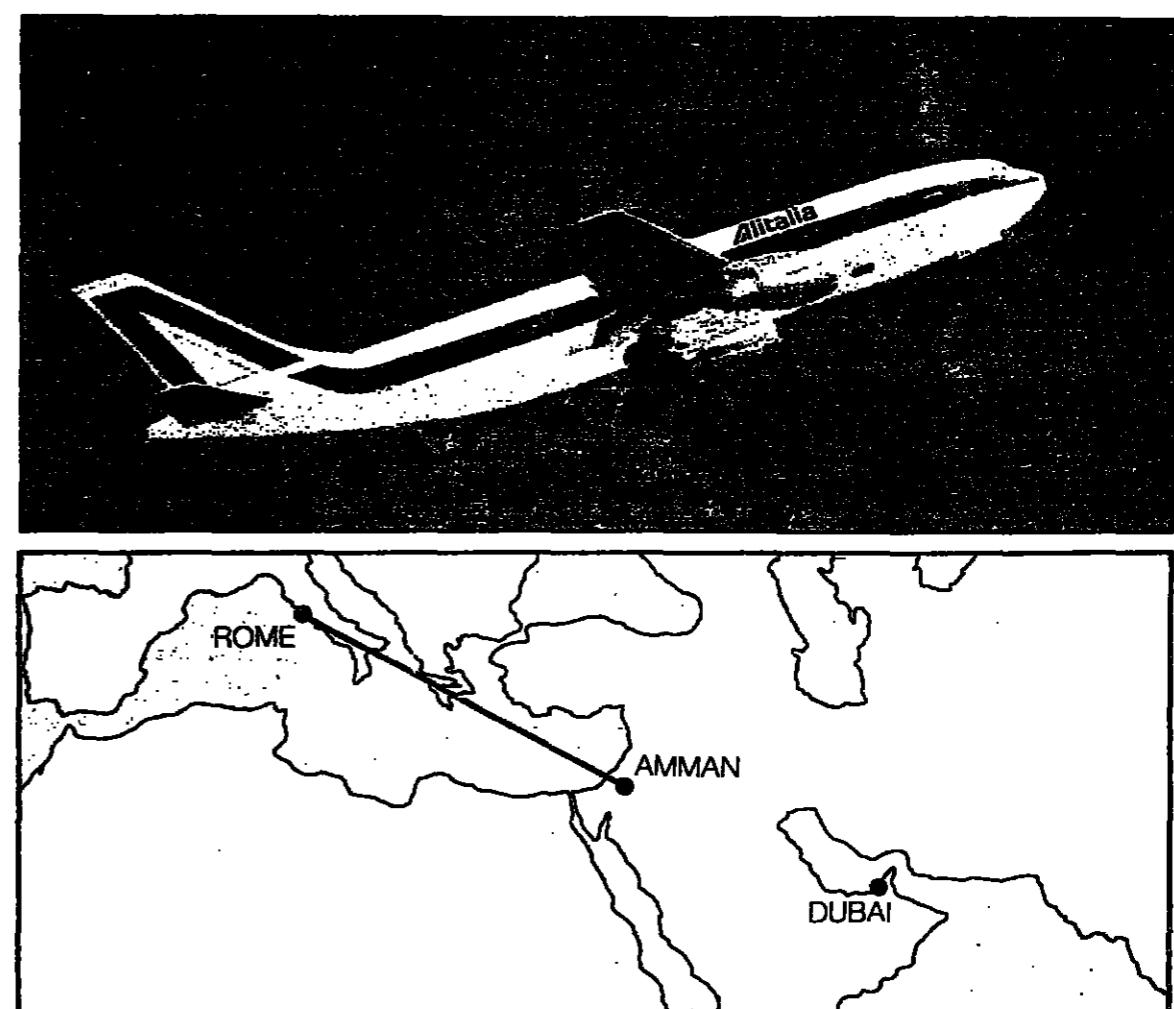
which attacks the roots of the plant and works its way up, is lowering expectations.

A U.S. agriculture department report estimated output would reach only 30,000 tonnes in 1989, its lowest level in recent years.

For the villagers and plantation workers, the disease wipes out fun as well as a livelihood.

"The only time in the year when we get a special meal is at the flood of plantation owners' wedding parties. This year, no nice meals for us," one local villager said.

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U.S. 'hit list' draws chorus of condemnation

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japan expressed strong regret and unleashed a barrage of countercharges Friday after Washington put it at the top of a list of alleged fair-trade violators.

The sharp Japanese reaction had been building for weeks and could augur a setback to the hope expressed in Washington that there be no backlash to naming Japan, India and Brazil as maintaining the most harmful trade barriers to American producers.

Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno summoned U.S. Ambassador Michael Armacost to deliver a protest, and the government said there were errors in the U.S. complaints about barriers to sales of supercomputers, satellites and foreign products.

Uno and other cabinet ministers said the U.S. action was "extremely regrettable" and expressed concern that such a one-sided move could hurt multilateral talks aimed at strengthening world trade.

The Japanese said they would reject negotiations under pressure of the designation.

"This designation in no way possesses legal binding force in the international trade system," said Hiroshi Mitsuoka, minister of international trade and industry.

Mitsuzuka described U.S. trade policy as "to threaten other countries into negotiating by brandishing the threat of unilateral sanctions."

This, he said, was contrary to the principles of the multinational General Agreement on Tariffs

and Trade, or GATT, "and could undermine the existing multilateral free trade system and the ongoing Uruguay Round of GATT."

Foreign ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe softened the trade minister's position on negotiations somewhat by saying Japan would agree to "quiet talks" that might coincide with U.S. demands under the 1988 trade law. He also said Japan might complain to GATT if the United States eventually imposes sanctions.

Japan has taken many steps to open its markets, Uno said, denying that the specific U.S. complaints "can be considered to constitute trade barriers."

Takuma Yamamoto, president of supercomputer maker Fujitsu Ltd., said the computer market in Japan "has been totally freed" and the government policy on buying supercomputers — contrary to the U.S. complaint — is not to discriminate between foreign and domestic producers.

He said U.S. supercomputers have 15 per cent of the Japanese market while Japanese supercomputers have only two per cent of the U.S. market. No Japanese supercomputer has ever been bought by a U.S. public organisation, Yamamoto said.

As the trade pressure built in recent weeks, Japan invited U.S.

Trade Minister Dinesh Singh, leading the campaign to boost India's exports and narrow its balance of payments gap, said the United States was itself building barriers to block access to its markets.

Singh described Thursday's statement by U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills that India discouraged foreign investment and insurance as "totally unjustified, irrational and unfair."

The United States has said that the three nations could face retaliation, including 100 per cent tariffs on their U.S. exports, if barriers are not removed within 18 months.

Indian officials said they had already told Washington that insurance in India had been nationalised and that the U.S. had a fair share of marine and reinsurance business.

They said the investment cli-

mate had improved in the past four years and up to 40 per cent foreign equity was allowed in most cases and 100 per cent in some.

Ramnaq Singh, president of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, urged the Bush administration not to retaliate against India.

He said retaliatory measures would be resented by the Indian public because most exports to the United States were of labour-intensive products.

He said India's trade surplus of \$700 million with the United States was only 0.4 per cent of its overall trade deficit.

Viren Shah, head of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, described the U.S. action as unfortunate and said no government would want to change its policies under pressure from foreign countries.

Dinesh Singh said the United States was failing in multilateral negotiations to evolve a just and balanced trading system.

"This action is a violation of the United States' own commitments under GATT," he said.

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mate had improved in the past four years and up to 40 per cent foreign equity was allowed in most cases and 100 per cent in some.

A spokesman for the European Commission, the executive body responsible for the trade policy of the 12 EC states, said it vehemently opposed Washington's attack on Japan, Brazil and India.

"We profoundly regret the United States has chosen this route," the spokesman said. "He did, however, welcome the fact that the Community was not on the hit-list."

The gesture appears to be a further sign of more conciliatory U.S. attitude in dealings with the EC.

The two sides have recently defused disputes over U.S. exports of meat from hormone-treated livestock, and decided that GATT panels should examine a U.S. complaint over EC subsidised and an EC complaint about U.S. sugar quotas.

EC Trade Commissioner Frans Andriessen met Hills in Washington last week, and President George Bush is due to meet EC Commission President Jacques Delors Tuesday.

The commission spokesman said the new U.S. law undermines global negotiations underway under the auspices of the Geneva-based GATT.

GATT The world trade body GATT cautioned Friday against unilateral measures.

GATT spokesman David Woods told reporters in Geneva that the U.S. announcement did not yet constitute unilateral trade action.

"Mr (Arthur) Dunkel on at least two occasions has said as director-general that there is nothing in the GATT that permits unilateral action to be taken without prior authorisation of the GATT," Woods said.

"That is a perfectly clear position. But there has been no unilateral action," he added.

Many of the GATT's 96 member nations have criticised attempts to improve trading positions by unilateral action, and the United States has come in for particularly broad attacks on the 1988 trade act under which the U.S. announcement was made.

The law was passed by a U.S. Congress frustrated by the refusal of many countries to dismantle their import barriers.

But GATT members say Washington could seek to redress its grievances either by making a specific complaint to the GATT ruling council or by pressing for changes in international rules under GATT's current Uruguay Round of World trade negotiations.

Taipei and Seoul

According to some officials and economists in the Far East, last minute concessions saved Taiwan

from joining Washington's black-list of unfair traders while South Korea escaped partly because the U.S. feared an anti-American backlash.

But they warned that Seoul and Taipei, who together accounted for almost 20 per cent of the U.S. trade deficit last year, have won only a brief respite.

Both nations lobbied frantically to escape U.S. "super 301" trade sanctions which could have shut them out of their most lucrative market and shattered their export-led economies.

Their efforts were rewarded Thursday when Hills said they had been included only on a "priority watch list" to persuade them to strengthen anti-patent laws.

The list also includes Thailand, China, India, Mexico, Brazil and Saudi Arabia.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

		Saturday, May 27, 1989	
		Central Bank official rates	
Buy	Sell	French franc	80.1 80.7
\$38.0	54.20	Japanese yen (for 100)	380.8 384.4
854.9	863.9	Dutch guilder	240.7 242.6
271.0	273.9	Swedish krona	80.6 81.2
310.4	312.9	DM (for 100)	37.5 37.8
		Belgian franc (for 10)	129.8 130.9

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during Tuesday, May 20, '89 and Wednesday May 24, '89. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company Number of shares Volume of trade Opening price Closing price Per value

Banking and financial institutions

Industrial Development Bank	9815	16195	1.650	1.650	1.000
Petra Bank	11000	26400	2.450	2.400	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	300	585	1.980	1.950	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	3755	5248	1.400	1.420	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	14552	17371	1.180	1.240	1.000
Housing Bank	6600	12170	1.850	1.830	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	500	1183	2.300	2.370	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	1410	21544	15.250	15.400	5.000
Arab Bank	1670	247277	147.300	147.500	10.000
Jordan National Bank	8235	20323	2.480	2.450	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	10914	25145	2.500	2.570	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	26200	49592	1.900	1.870	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	19299	18623	0.930	0.980	1.000
National Financial Investments	93917	184317	2.000	1.710	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2.000
Bait Al Mal Saving & Investment for Housing	—	—	—	—	1.000

Insurance and reinsurance

Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan French Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
REFCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Insurance	2250	7497	3.410	3.300	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	1300	1365	1.080	1.050	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	335	452	1.350	1.350	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	4320	5329	1.170	1.230	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Arabia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Ahliya Insurance	900	1219	1.300	1.380	1.000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Insurance	742	905	1.210	1.220	1.000

Services and industries

General Investments	—	—	—	—	1.000
Inna for Investment and Financial Facilities	3134	2374	0.740	0.830	1.000
Darco for Housing and Investment	169298	139570	0.830	0.810	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	92951	60070	0.650	0.630	1.000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	27400	9694	0.360	0.350	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	23271	3957	0.670	0.670	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Ta'jeerco	13500	4040	0.810	0.780	1.000
International Contracting & Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	8272	12294	1.490	1.490	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab International Hotels	145340	168289	1.150	1.160	1.000</td

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Lawson suited by West German track

HOCKENHEIM, West Germany (R) — World 500CC motorcycle champion Eddie Lawson, suited by the fast track, believes he can repeat his victory here of two years ago in Sunday's West German Grand Prix. The riders' boycott in the rain in the last round two weeks ago in Italy left the American second in this season's championship 10 points behind compatriot Wayne Rainey. But Honda rider Lawton, who won West German Grand Prix in 1986 and 1987, says the long Hockenheim straights "are not suitable." These straights are overtaking lanes for the Honda... Hockenheim is the first time this season we've really been able to use the power of the Hondas," he said. But, as in Italy, early practice was dominated by the Suzuki of last year's winner, Kevin Schwantz. The American won in Japan this year but crashed while leading the Spanish Grand Prix with six laps to go. Australian Kevin Magee is back in action six weeks after breaking a leg and an ankle at the U.S. Grand Prix and only one week after having a screw removed from the ankle.

Lewis and others threaten boycott

HOUSTON (AP) — Carl Lewis and other American Olympic medalists in track and field disgruntled by the athletics congress say they are boycotting the national outdoor championships next month. "We cannot continue to put in this position because the TAC is killing track in America. They are holding back funds, they are misappropriating situations and making it very difficult for athletes to compete here," Lewis, a six-time Olympic gold medal winner, said Thursday. "They're taking in a lot of money and giving out very little and then asking all the athletes to continue to go." Lewis said he'd like TAC to establish a plan to pay the top 10 athletes in every event, instead of the current process of paying only about 10 to 15 athletes, including Lewis, while "everyone else gets dogged." Lewis said TAC has arranged a profitable television package with Turner Broadcasting System, but are "falling to give any more than 15 to 20 per cent of that money to the competitions, so the meets cannot function."

Crawford back undaunted

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Taped to a wall above the workbench in driver Jim Crawford's garage is a piece of adhesive that says: "Miracles take a few days. The impossible a little longer." Exactly one week after the worst wreck at the Indy 500 this season, Crawford made the impossible happen. Never mind that the irrepressible, 41-year-old Scotsman hasn't been put back together as quickly, or as well, as the 1987 Lola Buick he powered to a 214.745 mile (345.589 kilometer) per hour lap Thursday. That is beside the point. "It's a little bit like getting back on a horse," Crawford said. "Anyway, it's the car and the guys who put it back together that deserve most of the credit anyway." On May 14, Crawford qualified the red, yellow-and-white trimmed Lola at 221.430 mile (356.379-kilometer) per hour in the fourth spot on the inside of the second row for Sunday's Indianapolis 500 race. On May 18, he wrecked it.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

YOU GOTTA BELIEVE!

Both vulnerable South deals.

NORTH

♦ K 9 7 6 4 2

♦ K X

♦ K 7 3

♦ 8 6 4

WEST

♦ A ♦ 3

♦ Q J 10 9 7 4 2 ♦ Q 8 6 5 3

♦ 9 8 6

♦ J 9 5 4 2

EAST

♦ A ♦ K

SOUTH

♦ Q J 10 8 5 5

♦ A ♦ A Q

♦ J 7 5 3 2

The bidding:

South - West - North - East

1 - Pass - 4 - Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♦

There are some contracts you can't guarantee. All you can do is take your best line and hope for a favorable lie of the cards.

Even in expert circles there is disagreement about the correct opening bid when you hold five clubs, five diamonds, and five clubs. Obviously, I was among those who began opening one spade, and it

got him to game in quick time. West led the top of his heart sequence, and declarer was not thrilled with his prospects. It would seem that he had to lose three club tricks and the ace of trumps. But he saw a possibility of an endplay if he could eliminate the side suits and the defenders could not unscramble their club tricks.

Declarer won the opening lead, cashed the ace of diamonds and overtook the queen of diamonds with the king—a vital strategem in his scheme. Next, he eliminated the diamonds by ruffing dummy's remaining card in the suit.

Declarer had done all he could—the rest was in the lap of the gods. He exited with a trump and a prayer, and the fates smiled on him.

In with the ace of spades, West could not lead a red card—that would allow declarer to discard a club from dummy while ruffing in hand. But as it happened, a club was no better. East could win two tricks in the suit, but the clubs were blocked. His forced red-lead return presented declarer with a ruff-and-draw and his contract.

Both vulnerable South deals.

Revolutionary French Open: watershed for top players

PARIS (AP) — Liberty: the Soviets want their prize money. Equality: the men's game is enjoying a refreshing party. Fraternity: umpires round the world say players are behaving better at all the time.

As France celebrates the bicentenary of its revolution, the three ideals established there 200 years ago are making a pitch in world tennis, boosting interest and excitement for the French Open beginning this week.

Although millionaires like Ivan Lendl and Steffi Graf will be satisfied with nothing less than the top prize at the second of the Grand Slam events to boost their earnings, players like Natalia Zvereva and Andrei Chesnokov simply will be out to keep what-ever they earn.

Both Soviets have signed contracts with the Washington-based Sports agency, Proserv, hoping the agreement will enable them to enjoy the same freedom of earnings as Western players.

Traditionally, Soviet players have handed over most of their earnings to the national federation. "Like Natalia, I am merely seeking to exercise my rights as a professional tennis player in order for me to compete at my best," said Chesnokov, winner of almost \$60,000 this season. "I must be able to control aspects of my career including my schedule, prize money and my endorsements."

Sadly, many of the world's top players will be absent from Roland Garros, the Mecca of clay-court tennis.

Martina Navratilova, a two-time champion, is skipping the French Open, preferring a long preparation for the grass courts of Wimbledon, her most successful arena where she feels she has her best shot at dethroning Grand Slam Queen Graf.

Chris Evert, Navratilova's long-time friend and rival, is also out, saying she is unable to get herself motivated for one last shot at an eighth French title.

"I'm not in the right frame of mind for Paris," Evert said this week after a 6-4, 6-1 defeat in Geneva, Switzerland, to Barbara Pamus, the latest in a series of losses to young, low-ranked players this season.

"In the last three years, I haven't gotten better," the 34-year-old American said. "I'm going to

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, MAY 28, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

by Thomas Pieron, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Don't expect to achieve a lot in the morning, as there is a let-it-wait attitude that will last until afternoon. In the evening, sensual desires build and there is a need for exciting relationships.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Put energy into personal pleasure. New scenes and activities will please you and your current honey. The trend is upbeat.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A release of romantic tension can turn out to be pleasant. Your emotions need special attention. True love can be the ultimate gift.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Satisfy an appetite for mental gymnastics with a good rap session. Your intellect is creative, but lacks focus.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Pinching the budget may have family members screaming. You may be pressed for time and find yourself racing to keep up.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Avoid someone who borrows but never pays back. Innocent flirting with the wrong person can get you in trouble. Use moderation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Keep personal matters to yourself. Take a short trip and make contact with people whom you do not normally associate.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You can use a better friend. You may want to show someone where the door is. Distant telephone calls will bring back pleasant memories.

Arsenal snatch league title in dying seconds

Arsenal praises Liverpool



LONDON (R) — Arsenal manager George Graham, whose side snatched the English league title from Liverpool in the thrilling last seconds of the season Friday night, believes his side could learn a lot from the deposed champions.

"In the end I still think Liverpool play magnificent football and that's what we want to emulate," Graham said after Arsenal's 2-0 victory at Anfield carried them to their first championship since 1971.

Graham's tribute to Liverpool, who were attempting to become the first side to win the League and cup double twice after their football association (FA) Cup triumph last Saturday, followed a nail-biting climax to the final game of the season.

Arsenal needed to beat Liverpool by two clear goals to clinch the crown — something no side had done at Anfield for three years.

Alan Smith gave the Londoners hope when he scored with a header in the 52nd minute. But it was Michael Thomas's injury time winner which stunned Liverpool's fans, who had already begun to celebrate another championship triumph.

Graham, who played in the

Arsenal side which won the double in 1971, said his team was not playing as well as it could.

"We can actually improve our play by about 40 per cent," he said. "This wasn't our best performance of the season, not by a long way, although of course the result was the most important."

"No words can really describe how I feel, but we have laid a foundation at Highbury, a way to handle ourselves both on and off the pitch and this is our reward," Graham added.

Veteran Highbury campaigner David O'Leary, an Arsenal player for 16 years, said all his hopes had now been fulfilled.

"I've now everything with the club. I know what it's like to be a winner and a loser for Arsenal, but I stayed at Highbury to win the league championship when others moved on and I know now it's all been worthwhile," the 31-year-old Irish international said.

out two and walked one in his first shutout and second complete game this season.

Darryl Strawberry drove in three runs with a pair of doubles as the Mets knocked out Herschel after five innings, his shortest outing in 19 starts. He was chased after two innings in a 15-4 loss to San Francisco last Aug. 14.

Ojeda, 2-5, struck out three and walked one as he became the first left-hander to beat the Dodgers at home this year.

Mets 8, Dodgers 2

Bob Ojeda pitched a seven-hitter for his first complete game

WANTED

SUMMARY

A qualified and experienced commercial person with a background in technical and financial fields.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsible for coordinating with Amman and Paris based partners in the planning, structuring, negotiation and implementation of project and trade-related business opportunities in Iraq and Jordan.

To contribute to the identification of projects to be targeted and to assist in the analysis, technical assistance, legal/contractual requirements, financial structuring and negotiations and implementation of business ventures.

PERSON

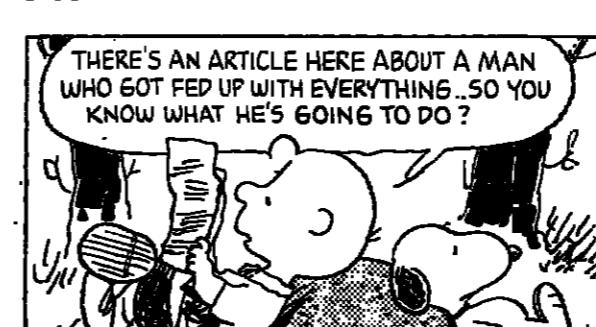
A mature professional with a flexible and creative approach to business and adapted/willing to work as part of a team.

LOCATION

Based in Amman but must be willing to spend protracted periods of time outside of Jordan.

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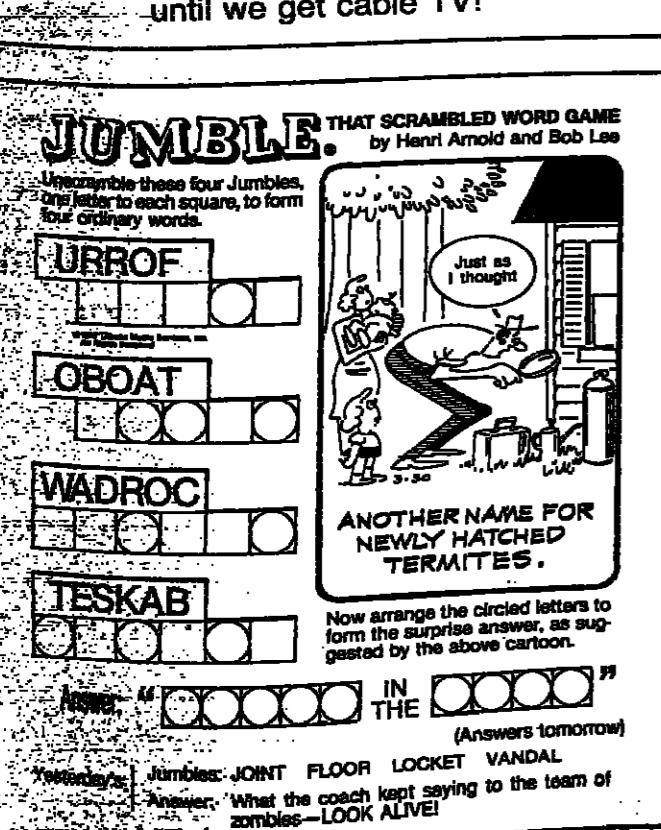
Peanuts



BY JOHNNY HART



Andy Capp



Uno tipped as next premier

TOKYO (AP) — Outgoing Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita has decided to back Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno as his successor, news reports said Saturday.

Nearly all major newspapers carried front-page reports of Takeshita choosing to support Uno, although most said the situation remained fluid.

Takeshita is believed to have discussed the succession problem Saturday afternoon with Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Secretary General Shintaro Abe. Takeshita met with Abe for less than one hour at a Tokyo hospital, where Abe is recovering from surgery.

However, Takeshita told reporters a final choice could not be made until late next week, possibly Friday, following discussions with other party elders. Kyodo News Service and other news reports said.

Party leaders said Uno emerged as the top contender after talks Friday between Takeshita and Masayoshi Ito, ruling of the LDP's policy-making executive council, according to reports in the nationally circu-

lated Asahi, Yomiuri and Mainichi newspapers.

The decision was seen as a major step towards filling a leadership vacuum that has plagued the ruling party since late last month, when Takeshita said he would resign to accept responsibility for the Recruit Company bribery scandal which has rocked Japanese politics.

Uno, 66, a 10-term member of the powerful lower house and foreign minister since 1987, also has held the international trade and industry portfolio and served as party deputy secretary general.

"We haven't received any word from Tokyo," said an official at Uno's office in Morigama, western Japan. "But since the news was reported in the papers this morning there has been a swarm of reporters hanging around here," he said, requesting anonymity.

A spokesman for Takeshita refused to comment.

S. Africa execution rate among world's highest

PRETORIA (R) — The night before prisoners are hanged in Pretoria central prison they are each given a whole chicken for dinner and four rand (\$1.40) to buy a treat at the prison tuck shop.

For the rest of the night death row resounds to the voices of the condemned men singing hymns about the next world.

Another 13 men and a woman have just been sent to join them — the biggest single group sentenced to death for a political crime in South Africa's modern political history.

They were condemned to death Friday in remote Upington near the Namibian border for sharing common purpose with a mob that killed a black policeman in 1985.

Annesty International says South Africa's official execution rate is the third highest in

the world — at least 537 people hanged between 1985 and mid-1988.

"I find the whole place has been brutalised, dehumanised. It's like a factory which produces corpses," said Brian Curran, who heads a group called Lawyers for Human Rights.

"The whole place is serviced. They provide food. They make gardens. They give notice of execution. They hang — and they bury."

As their final night ends, a priest visits prisoners for a half hour of prayer.

Then the prisoners mount a flight of stairs to the execution chamber. Waiting with the hangman are a doctor and a policeman, who takes fingerprints to check these are the right convicts.

They are lined up — Pretoria's gallows can take seven

at a time. Their wrists are tied behind their backs and a noose is placed around their necks with a knot behind the ear.

Then the executioner pulls a lever which opens a trap door.

Renowned South African heart surgeon Chris Barnard denounces the death penalty and condemns hanging as "slow, dirty, horrible, brutal, uncivilised and unspeakably barbaric."

Of the 117 people hanged last year three were whites, according to the Black Sash, a civil rights group for women.

"The judiciary is white and system-orientated," said Curran. "Whether we like it or not, most white South Africans have racist inclinations. We grew up that way. Most white South Africans somehow seem to feel that black people are less human."

International protest is focusing on the use of the "common purpose" doctrine to convict for mob killings — particularly in the case of the "Sharpeville six", whose death sentences were commuted last September, to long jail sentences by South African President P.W. Botha, who can grant clemency.

Many of the 25 defendants in the Upington trial were convicted on the grounds of common purpose, with the court finding not that they killed policeman Lucas Sethusa but that they shared the intentions of those who did.

The sentencing also provoked strong criticism from a major church group.

The South African Council of Churches, which groups Anglican and Methodist churches, described the sentencing as an outrage "that only the apartheid system can produce."

Violence sweeps eastern Nigeria

LAGOS (R) — A young boy was reported killed on Friday as two days of anti-government violence swept the Nigerian city of Benin, despite a military clampdown with troops ordered to shoot rioters on sight.

Student-led protests against hardships blamed on military President Ibrahim Babangida's International Monetary Fund (IMF)-backed economic adjustment programme have erupted in several parts of the West African country over the past week.

Violent protest flared Thursday when thousands of people took over the streets of the ancient city of Benin, capital of Bendel state. Crowds barricaded major roads, setting fire to army vehicles and breaking open two jails, newspapers reported Friday.

At least 600 detainees were freed when demonstrators stormed the prisons.

Protesters carried placards denouncing austerity measures approved by the IMF to help pull oil-producing Nigeria out of economic crisis.

Ibrahim Babangida

Police and troops fired teargas and bullets into the air to disperse rioters again Friday. The news agency of Nigeria (NAN) reported the body of an unidentified boy lay in front of the office of Bendel State Broadcasting Corporation.

State Governor Tunde Obadeyi responded to Thursday's violence by imposing a dusk-to-dawn curfew on the state capital, 320 kilometres east of Lagos, closing schools throughout the state and ordering troops to shoot rioters.

Demonstrators massed at the University of Benin to renew their assault on the city Friday, mounting barricades and setting fire to car tyres, NAN said.

Groups scattered by security forces regrouped in other parts of the city.

OAS fails to solve Panama poll crisis

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP)

— General Manuel Antonio Noriega and opposition leaders are still at loggerheads over Panama's political crisis after four days of talks with an Organisation of American States (OAS).

The opposition said Friday that Noriega must be a party to any negotiations, while Noriega insisted the opposition must negotiate with pro-government parties.

"At this time what we hoped for has not been achieved, an agreement among Panamanians to resolve the crisis that bedevils Panama," said opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Endara after meeting the OAS delegation.

The impasse arose when the government nullified the May 7 presidential elections, which international observers said the opposition won by a 3-1 margin.

Members of the OAS delegation, which is leaving Panama, said late Friday they believed that a process of communication had been started.

The opposition now knows General Manuel Antonio Noriega's point of view, and the general knows the opposition's point of view, " said Ecuadorian Foreign Minister Diego Cordezo.

Cordovez said the mission also communicated the other Latin

American countries' concerns about the Panamanian situation.

The mission, which included Cordovez, the foreign ministers of Guatemala and Trinidad and Tobago, and OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares, must file a report by June 5.

The OAS has scheduled a meeting of foreign ministers for June 6 to consider its next step.

After four days of talks with the OAS delegates in Panama, neither side appeared to have budged.

Endara said Friday he would not accept the presidency Sept. 1, even if Noriega allowed it, if Noriega remained in place as commander of the Panamanian defence forces.

The opposition has said repeatedly that Noriega and the defence forces hold real power in Panama and therefore must be a part of any talks.

Noriega, in a press conference after his own meeting with the OAS delegation, said, "If the opposition remains intransigent, the defence forces are not going to slip on a banana peel" and be drawn into the dispute.

He said questions about the possibility of his own resignation were "stupid." On Wednesday the OAS was told the issue was for the defence forces to decide, not the OAS or the opposition.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Seoul deploys police to block rally

SEOUL (AP) — The government deployed some 7,000 riot police in central Seoul Saturday to block a rally called by dissidents to demand the fall of President Roh Tae-Woo's government. Riot troopers in green combat fatigues guarded government buildings, major intersections and subway stations to try to prevent protesters from gathering for the rally. The government banned the rally despite organisers' claim that it would be peaceful. The United National Democratic Movement, the nation's main dissident alliance, called the rally to denounce the government and demand a full investigation into the death of radical student Lee Chol-Gyu. A government crackdown on dissidents and students in recent weeks has blocked most rallies. The crackdown came after seven riot troopers were killed May 3 in a clash with students in Pusan.

Mozambique rebels kill 50

MAPUTO, Mozambique (AP) — Anti-government rebels killed 50 people in recent attack on Massinga, a town in the southern part of Mozambique, the national news agency AIM reported Friday. AIM, citing a broadcast on Radio Mozambique, said the guerrillas also castrated nine men in their May 12 attack. Communications are extremely poor in the southeast African nation and information on fighting in remote areas sometimes takes days or weeks to reach the capital of Maputo. The rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance suffered heavy losses when they encountered local military units, but no figures were given. The rebels have been fighting since 1977 in a bid to undermine Mozambique's Marxist government. No government acknowledges supporting the rebels, but their hit-and-run attacks on civilian and military targets have destroyed the country's economy. An estimated six million of Mozambique's 15 million people are in need of food aid, according to relief groups.

High-ranking Democrat to resign

NEW YORK (R) — The Democratic leadership in Congress, battered by the ethics investigation and expected resignation of House Speaker Jim Wright, was thrown into further turmoil Friday when its third-ranking leader said he was resigning over a financial inquiry. The New York Times in early Saturday editions quoted Tony Coelho, the leading contender to become majority leader of the House of Representatives, as saying he was resigning rather than put his party and colleagues through a protracted investigation of his personal finances. Coelho's statement followed reports earlier this week that House Speaker Wright is expected to resign following a 10-month investigation by an ethics committee which is expected to find he violated House rules in his financial dealings. "I want to give my party a chance to move on," Coelho, the House Democratic whip, told the newspaper.

Cocaine baby's mother free

ROCKFORD, Illinois (AP) — A grand jury refused to indict a young mother for manslaughter in her infant's death, which was linked to alleged cocaine use during pregnancy, authorities said Friday. Prosecutors had charged Melanie Green, 24, with involuntary manslaughter and delivery of a controlled substance to a minor, a charge usually used against street-corner drug dealers. A Winnebago County Grand Jury — a panel of citizens convened to decide whether charges merit prosecution — met Thursday and did not indict her on any charge, state's attorney Paul Logli said. Green's two-day-old baby, Bianca, died Feb. 4. Cocaine was found in Bianca's system and in her mother's, said Dr. P. John Seward, the county coroner. The drug was carried through the placenta to the fetus, reducing Bianca's ability to accept oxygen from the mother and resulting in brain damage.

A Foreign Ministry official said Uno was scheduled to leave Sunday for Paris, where he will attend a meeting of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. He is due to return June 4.

Along with Takeshita's resignation, the scandal has led to the downfall of three cabinet ministers and the arrest of a former chief cabinet secretary. Many governing party members have called it the worst crisis since the party was founded 34 years ago.

Party leaders reportedly favour Uno because he is thought to be untainted by the Recruit scandal, which already has led to more than a dozen arrests, and has experience in foreign affairs.

Opposition to Uno remains, however, as he is a leading member of the party headed by Takeshita's predecessor, Yasuhiro Nakasone, who earlier this week was forced to testify under oath before parliament.

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